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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please add or amend the claims to read as follows, and cancel without prejudice or disclaimer to resubmission in a divisional or continuation application claims indicated as cancelled:

Please cancel claims 1 through 13 without prejudice and replace with a new set of claims listed below:

- 14. A method of authorizing an electronic device to act as a representative of a certifying authority (CA), comprising:
- implementing in the electronic device a document issuing policy of the certifying authority;
- reading into the electronic device a certified digital document associated with a user;
- generating on behalf of the CA a new certified digital document based on the read certified digital document and issuing policy.
- 15. The method according to claim 14, wherein information associated with an identity of the electronic device or its user is stored within the electronic device.
- 16. The method of claim 14, wherein the issuing policy attests to personal identifying information of the user.
- 17. The method of claim 14, wherein the new certified digital document is output by the electronic device through a communication channel.
- 18. The method of claim 14, wherein the certified digital documents are permits or certificates.

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- 19. The method of claim 14, wherein a person using the electronic device to sign or certify a digital document is requested to identify themselves prior to the electronic device signing or certifying the digital document.
- 20. The method of claim 19, wherein a user identifies themselves using biometric identification information.
- 21. The method of claim 14, wherein a plurality of certified digital documents associated with the user is stored within the electronic device, each of which plurality of certified digital documents is associated with a different certifying authority.
- 22. An electronic device adapted to act as a representative of a certifying authority comprising:
- a controller adapted to execute a program associated with the certifying authority based on a document issuing policy of the certifying authority, reads a certified digital document associated with a user, and based on the certified digital document generates a new digital document in accordance with the document issuing policy.
- 23. The electronic device according to claim 22, wherein the program generates the new certified digital document from a certified document associated with a user if data in the certified document is consistent with the document issuing policy.
- 24. The electronic device of claim 22, wherein the controller reads a digital document provided to the electronic device and signs or certifies the digital document only after the electronic device attests to personal identifying information of the user.
- 25. The electronic device of claim 24, further comprising a biometric data input module.

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- 26. The electronic device of claim 22, wherein a plurality of certified documents associated with the user are stored within the electronic device, each of the plurality of certified documents is associated with a different certifying authority.
- 27. The electronic device of claim 22, wherein the electronic device is functionally associated with a wristwatch.
- 28. The electronic device of claim 22, wherein the electronic device is functionally associated with a smart card.